

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03606 200322Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03  
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06  
TRSE-00 DODE-00 /066 W  
-----200334Z 095830 /12

R 200132Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO USMISSION NATO  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 455  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3606

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, AS  
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER FRASER'S VISIT TO NATO

REF: NATO 3592

1. PRIME MINISTER FRASER RAISED THE SUBJECT OF NATO AND HIS IMPENDING VISIT TO NATO HEADQUARTERS DURING A LONG MEETING I HAD WITH HIM ON MAY 18. FRASER SAID THAT HIS INTEREST IN EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENSE MATTERS DATED FROM THE PERIOD WHEN HE SERVED AS AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER IN THE 1960'S ADMITTING THAT HE DID NOT HAVE DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT FORCE LEVELS AND CAPABILITIES OF THE ALLIES AND THE SOVIET BLOC, HE TOOK A VERY PESSIMISTIC VIEW CONCERNING NATO'S ABILITY TO RESIST ANY RUSSIAN ATTACK WITH CONVENTIONAL ARMS. IN FRASER'S VIEW "UNLESS THE WEST USES TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT THE BEGINNING OF HOSTILITIES NOTHING WOULD PREVENT THE USSR FROM REACHING THE ATLANTIC IN TWO WEEKS TIME."

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2. FRASER IS A DEEPLY CONSERVATIVE MAN WITH A STRONG BIAS AGAINST THE USSR. HE IS CONCERNED THAT WESTERN NATIONS ARE BEING TAKEN IN BY THE SOVIETS IN DISARMAMENT TALKS. HE ALSO HAS STRONG DOUBTS WHETHER THE WEST HAS THE WILL TO CONTINUE RESISTANCE TO WHAT FRASER BELIEVES TO BE THE CONSTANT AND UNCHANGING SOVIET EFFORT TO DOMINATE WESTERN EUROPE.

3. FRASER WILL BE INTERESTED IN ALL ASPECTS OF NATO DEFENSE EMPHASIZING CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES. HE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE A DETAILED BRIEFING ON HOW NATO VIEWS THE INDIAN OCEAN.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SHOWN SOME SENSITIVITY IN THE PAST TO WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE THE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT THE US ACCORDS NATO NATIONS IN COMPARISON WITH THE TREATMENT AUSTRALIA RECEIVES. IT WAS FRASER'S DECISION TO SEEK CLOSER -ALBEIT ILL-DEFINED- AUSTRALIAN LINKS WITH NATO. HE SEES HIS JUNE 17 MEETINGS WITH SYG LUNS AND GEN. HAIG AS IMPORTANT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CLOSER AUSTRALIAN-NATO RELATIONSHIP.  
ALSTON

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, AS, NATO, (FRASER, J MALCOLM)  
**To:** NATO BRUSSELS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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